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**Ten Acres of Fairyland**

Washington, D. C., Jan. 20. — Nearly seventy years ago a strip of about ten acres of land, situated directly adjoining the southwest corner of the National Capitol grounds was set aside for a botanic garden. Just before one turns to the right at the Peace Monument on the way to the Capitol the high open fences shut this tract of land off from the street, and guard it against indiscriminate invasion. But the gates are always open in daytime, and visitors are welcome. There are greenhouses, large and small, and trees, plants and shrubbery in abundance. On the grounds every variety of trees that can be grown in the semi-tropical Washington climate has been nurtured and brought to the highest state of horticultural efficiency. The houses contain banana, coffee, spice, mango, pepper, coconut, rubber, and every other kind of tree known to any part of the globe. George W. Hess is in charge of the garden, and he and his predecessors have grown a collection of nature's products that can hardly be found in any other ten-acre enclosure in the civilized world. Busy visitors to Washington rush about madly to find the entrances to halls of marble and buildings hoary with age, and sometimes lacking in modern plumbing; but most of them miss the botanic garden on their way to hunt up a Congressman or a bill at the Capitol. And, in the language of the street "some of dem guys on the hill think they want to move the botanic gardens." They suggest carting it across the city to Rock Creek Park, where only the people who run automobiles may see it; but where it will be entirely missed by the vast hordes of tourists that come to Washington through the benefits of cheap excursion tickets and see the Capitol City of their nation afoot.

**A Whirl of Pleasure**

Least it might be inferred that Mr. Thomas W. Lawson had wrecked the happiness of Washington the fact might be recorded as a sort of disillusionment, that the Capital is gayier than the gayest. Mrs. Wilson is making an admirable "First Lady of the Land," and the President, like a man of "matured years," with a new wife and a new term of office, is a lively sort. Receptions and "affairs" are constantly coming off at the White House; and as the town always follows the gait set by that institution, the nights are long, and the mornings usually begin late. The President and Mrs. Wilson were at the opera, and showed their enjoyment and appreciation of the bringing of the Boston National Opera Company to Washington by Mrs. Wilson-Greene. In the country as a whole people are apt to think Washington wouldn't be much except for the political set. But just what the political set, society, or the people who love fine things in art, would do without Mrs. Wilson-Greene. Not only has she given Washington its first real opera for many years, but every week she adds to her attractions, and on her list there has been Paderewski, Schumann-Heink, Amla Gluck, and a host of other top-liners. And beat it if you can, she hasn't even so much as a hall of her own; but evidently Mrs. Wilson-Greene has only to say the word, and the crowds follow her attractions to any rented theatre—all because she has out-classed the regular theatrical enterprises in giving to a great city the best attractions in existence. Her work should serve as an inspiration to ambitious women everywhere, who hesitate because they wonder whether "it can be done."

**The Value of Railroad Properties**

There has been so much talk in the past about "watered railroad stocks" that the results now shown by the Interstate Commerce Commission in the stupendous task undertaken to determine the actual value of the properties, are peculiarly interesting. Six railroads have been "inventoried," and it appears that at least half of them have been capitalized by the companies for considerably less than they are found to be worth by the federal investigators. The Government, in determining what it calls "tentative valuations," has adopted a policy of holding down its figures, and omitting entirely any items susceptible to question or dispute. The vast items ordinarily listed under the head of "supplies on hand" have not been included in the preliminary figures forwarded to the Interstate Commerce Commission. The policy that has been adopted has caused some misunderstanding on the part of the public, as the tentative valuations omit so many assets of the different railroads that the companies have been compelled to file protests in every instance. The Commission is considering these protests, and in doing so allows some of the items of actual valuation that have been omitted by the investigators. The preliminary statements of valuations which have already been given out, make it appear that some of the properties have been slightly over-capitalized. Other roads, on the face of the incomplete returns, are credited with a greater valuation than that which has been claimed by the railroads themselves. It is apparent that the public should guard against judging too hastily of the result that the valuation of the entire railroad property of the United States will show. During the readjustment following the scandalous mismanagement of two or three big railroads the public mind became disturbed because there were gross over-valuations in the course of the stock manipulations indulged in. It followed that many people believed that all railroads were constituted principally of "watered stock." However, the work now being done by the Interstate Commerce Commission, leads to the belief that if the work is carried out accurately and completely it will be found that the value of the property devoted to public service is well in excess of the total of stocks and bonds, taking the railroads of the country as a whole.

**Sign Boards on the Up-road**

By Hamilton E. Williams

An ancient formula for garmenting the soul:  
Bind Kindness and Truth about the neck; Grave them upon the tables of the heart.  
When a soul has ceased to care what other people think of him, and has lost self-respect, he has turned God out of the house.  
To win the favorable opinion of the folk about us is one of life's greatest spurs. To study the welfare of other people is significant of a high degree of culture.  
They do not think out words and deeds in deference to others in the jungle.  
That is what makes the jungle. The culture of the Christ gives one the heart and the power to do whatsoever one does in the spirit of welfare.  
That is what makes the Christian men and women distinguished. Courtesy is the final test of being a Christian.  
An amateur painter, when he sees a master-piece, sees both the inferiority of his own poor daub and the glory of the masterpiece, and being shown the heaven of the truly beautiful he is saved from the hell of being content with a daub.  
It is even so when one sees Jesus and learns of Him. He may no longer with joy remain inferior. He must cry out for help to climb up to the eminence of true life.

The poor daubster content (from ignorance of stupidity) with his caricatures is exactly the type of the Pharisee and the self-righteous ceremonialists of whom the streets are full-well stocked.  
Jesus was very kindly to the sinner, but never could abide the sinning Pharisees. Sinners He did save to glorious new life and peace—but Pharisees and self-righteous He did not help, because they were well content with themselves.  
Take note of those who are superior to the appeal of the gospel. It will be a study of spiritual desert soil. Not even God can grow anything on stones. When one considers the unspeakable purity of God, the perfect character of Jesus—he becomes like the publican who beat his breast. And on that soil God sows eternal life.  
Blessed are the poor in spirit—for they shall become like tropical gardens under God's culture.  
Blessed are the hungry and thirsty for life—for they shall be filled with the bread and wine of the knowledge of God.  
And put on Kindness and Truth for street-wear, shop-wear, home-wear, church-wear, business-wear, and see what happens. Our circle of friendship will be so enlarged that we shall be so busy with joy that we'll forget the unpleasant events of life.

**Misleading Impressions.**  
It is rather unfortunate that the Interstate Commerce Commission has not accompanied its first reports with explanations that would acquaint the public mind with the fact that in reality they have not intended to furnish full and complete valuation statistics. Some of the most important questions regarding the principles and method of valuation remain undetermined, many of which will be settled by the Commission itself, and some of which undoubtedly will have to go to the courts. The earlier "tentative valuations" not only do not summarize the findings, but they do not give figures which can be accepted as values of the properties. A part of the procedure of determining how much the railroads really are worth appears to rest on hearings that are to be held in each case, where a valuation has been submitted, and which will be reviewed by the Commission. The Commission evidently intends to increase the figures in all the valuations; since the minimum tentative values have been so calculated as to draw out protests from the railroads, thereby insuring a review of the preliminary work. This will no doubt secure accuracy on the final returns, and will show the actual relation between values and capitalization.

Go to the store whose ad impressed you strongly—and you'll go to the right one, nearly always.

**PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM**  
A toilet preparation of merit. Helps to eradicate dandruff. For Restoring Color and Beauty to Gray or Faded Hair. 25c and 50c at Druggists.

**Sign Boards on the Up-road**

By Hamilton E. Williams

When a person loves everything on the universe he is not troubled with doubts and dreads and darkness.  
They loaded our Lord Jesus down with trouble, but never did his soul falter beyond a come-back. He died bigger than anything in the world.  
Kindness and Truth a garland about the neck and we shall be walking close to the Lord Father—and folks.  
I found in an old out-of-the-way book-store a slender volume of songs.  
Quietly bound, one could see the village printer had here done his work of art.  
The verses were commonplace, leadly so, but the poet did not know he echoed ill the love-lilts of the ages. Nevertheless in spite of the apprentice over-garnishing one knew a gentle soul had found God's ancient highroad.  
There was never a flower in which he did not see some look of his Woman. He made the little hamlet where they lived (no doubt a frowzy, vicious village whose emotional ecstasies were regulated by the price of eggs)  
A sacred place, because she had trod its streets. The hillside springs had no need of angel-trobbing after she passed them... such is love's constant wonder-working.  
My ears were tortured with the limping rhymes, but my spirit drank deep life's wine as I read the musty pages of the book cast up by the tides of the years.  
And the last song (it seemed the woman had died) bade her be patient till he came.  
Four generations of lovers had laughed adown green fields while the book yellowed.  
Forgotten years ago he had taken his journey outward toward the tryst.  
I fell a-muse... are they to-day in some rose-garden where their dreams came true?  
Or, chance he has not found her yet though he has ranged all roads—on which light shines.  
Or, chance another after many days brought comfort to his heart—and he forgot.  
Or, chance their souls are galled in dust, and there is no gate, no garden...  
This is a very dull, bleak, rain-sodden, beautiful, dream-thrilled world. My Comrade... and we mortals who shiver in flimsy tents must build our dreams a world of dreams and set our tryst beyond the stars. Comrade! I'll bring thee garlands... Hide the gate.

**THE THRICE-A-WEEK EDITION OF THE NEW YORK WORLD IN 1917**  
Practically a Daily at the Price of a Weekly. No Other Newspaper in the World Gives so Much at so Low a Price.  
The value and need of a newspaper in the household was never greater than at the present time. The great war in Europe is now half-way into its third year, and whether peace be at hand or yet be far off, it and the events to follow it are sure to be of absorbing interest for many a month to come.  
There are world-shaking affairs, in which the United States, willing or unwilling, is compelled to take a part. No intelligent person can ignore such issues.  
THE THRICE-A-WEEK WORLD'S regular subscription is only \$100 per year, and this pays for 156 papers. We offer this unequalled newspaper and THE ANDOVER-NEWS together for one year for \$2.25.  
The regular subscription price of the two papers is \$2.50.  
Our "B. B. B." column always brings quick returns. Try it.

**STATE MOOSE TO MEET**  
Matthew Hale Calls for Progressive Conference in Albany  
New York, Jan. 19.—A meeting will be held at Albany on January 27th of the subcommittee for New York State of the committee on organization appointed for the northeastern states by Matthew Hale, acting chairman of the National Progressive party. It was announced here to-night.  
About 300 middle of the road Progressives from all parts of the state have been invited. It was said. Plans will be made to organize the state and elect representatives to the national conference to be held in Saint Louis.  
"Differences of opinion of presidential candidates in the last election do not affect the qualifications for admission to the conference," the announcement said. "The only tests are continued belief in the Progressive programme of 1912 and continued membership in the Progressive party."

Advertising so good as to appeal to usually indifferent folks will make any store take a sudden "jump" into prosperity.

**LENT BEGINS FEBRUARY 21**

Easter Comes April 8.—Other Dates, Eclipses and Weather "Dope."

The only holiday in the year to follow or precede a Sunday will be Labor day, which always falls on Monday. Decoration day will fall on Wednesday, as will also the Fourth of July. Columbus day will fall on Friday and Christmas this year will fall on Tuesday. Labor day comes early in the month while Thanksgiving day will come one day earlier than it did last year on the 29th.  
The months with five Saturdays are March, June, September and December.  
Ash Wednesday, or the beginning of Lent, comes on the 21st of February, which brings Easter on April 8, or 15 days earlier than last year.  
Rather a peculiar condition comes in September as in that month we will have two full moons—not both at the same time. The first one comes on the very first day of the month and the last one on the 30th day of the month. We have been accustomed to regard the full moon in September as harvest moon, but a question may arise in the minds of some as to which will be the full moon of September in the year 1917.  
As for other peculiarities about the year none appear on the surface at present, though they may be discovered as the weeks run along. It will have storms, and sunshine in about the usual proportion; heat and cold will average up to about the same figure. Almost everybody will hope that it will not be quite as erratic a year as the one now drawn to a close. That is, we would enjoy a little warmer weather and not so much rain before the first of July, and little less continued heat and considerably more rain during July and August. It is possible, of course, that 1917 may be a poorer agricultural year than 1916 has been, but it is not probable. Those years of blight and disappointment do not often follow each other in succession.

**"ANURIC!"**  
THE NEWEST  
DISCOVERY IN CHEMISTRY  
This is a recent discovery of Doctor Pierce, who is head of the Invalide Hotel and Surgical Institute at Buffalo, N. Y. Experiments at Doctor Pierce's Hospital for several years proved that there is no other eliminator of uric acid more active than lithin in eliminating uric acid, and is a harmless but reliable chemical compound that may be safely given to children, but should be used only by grown-ups who actually wish to restore their kidneys to perfect health, by conscientiously using one box—of more in extreme cases—of "Anuric" (thanks to Doctor Pierce's achievement) is by far the most perfect kidney and bladder corrector obtainable.  
Dr. Pierce's Pellets are the original Little Liver Pills. One Little Pellet for a laxative—three for a cathartic.

**INACTIVITY CAUSES CONSTIPATION**  
Lack of exercise in the winter is a frequent cause of constipation. You feel heavy, dull and listless, your complexion is sallow and pimply, and energy at low ebb. Clean up this condition at once with Dr. King's New Life Pills, a mild laxative that relieves the congested intestines without griping. A dose before retiring will assure you a full and easy awakening in the morning. 25c. at your druggist. Advertisement.

If you are offering a buying opportunity at your store just now that is really notable—make your advertising of it really notable too.

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